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THE STATE OF ARIZONA

## GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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December 27, 2004

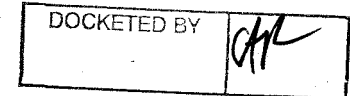
Ms. Laurie A. Woodall, Chairman  
Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee  
Office of the Attorney General  
1275 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCUMENT CONTROL

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**DOCKETED**

JAN - 5 2005

L-00000D-04-0127



Re: Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the West Valley-North Power Line and Substation Project

Dear Chairman Woodall:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) has reviewed the above-referenced Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) for potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources. The Department understands that the proposed project consists of constructing one 230 kilovolt (kV) substation, one 500 kV substation, and associated 230 kV power lines. These infrastructure upgrades are to improve electrical reliability and to accommodate for future electrical load growth occurring within and around the study areas.

Based on information within the CEC application, it appears that the majority of the proposed routes will follow the existing 500 kV power line, Central Arizona Project Canal, routes or roadways in/near residential areas. We support locating power lines along previously disturbed routes to minimize any impacts to wildlife and associated habitats. We also understand that land adjacent to the proposed corridor has been designated for development and would be developed prior to the construction of the power line, further reducing the potential for impacts from this project.

Since various raptor species may use transmission line support structures for perching and/or nesting, the Department recommends that APS follow the established guidelines within their Raptor Protection Program to ensure that necessary preventative measures are incorporated into the project to minimize the potential for electrocution to raptors.

The proposed substation sites as assessed in Exhibit D, conclude disturbance in the area would generate low impacts to wildlife and associated habitats, due to the existing vegetation communities and existing dirt roads; however, the xeroriparian and wash bottom communities do provide important movement corridors for wildlife. The Department supports the recommendations listed in this Exhibit with regards to the Preferred System Option and the avoidance of these wash communities to minimize any potential fragmentation of these corridors.

Ms. Laurie A. Woodall

December 27, 2004

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The Department appreciates the opportunity to review this CEC application prior to consideration by the Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee. We look forward to working closely with the Committee in the future to develop potential alternatives and appropriate mitigation to avoid or minimize impacts to fish and wildlife resources as a result of proposed powerplant and transmission line projects. If you have any questions or require any additional information regarding this letter, please contact me at (602) 789-3605.

Sincerely,



Bob Broscheid  
Habitat Branch Chief

BB:kh

cc: Rebecca Davidson, Project Evaluation Program Supervisor  
Russ Haughey, Habitat Program Manager, Region VI  
Mike DeWitt, APS Project Manager